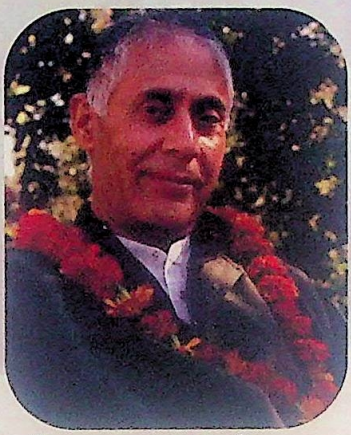


Ishwar Ashram

(Founded by Shiavacharaya Ishwarswaroop Swami Lakshmanjoo Maharaj)

Kashmir has always been known to be the abode of Saints & Scholars. Spiritual seekers across the world do not consider their mission complete unless they have visited Kashmir. And on this very land, in the early 20th century, was born Shaivacharya Swami Lakshmanjoo. Swamiji was an illuminated soul, who revived the Trika philosophy, also known as Kashmir Shaiva Darshan or Kashmir Shaivism.

He was also fondly known as "Laal Saab"(the dearest one) and "Ishwar Swaroop" (manifestation of God). HE founded the ashram at Ishber, Nishat Bagh, Srinagar, Kashmir which came to be known as "Ishwar Ashram".

The ashram is picturesquely set at the foothills of the Mahadeva mountain range, close to the shimmering waters of Dal Lake. This is a place where nature abounds in all its glory. Swamiji lived in this ashram from 1962 till he attained Mahasamadhi in 1991.

Upper level

Swamiji's Residence

The main building of the ashram is a double-story building with exposed brickwork, almost in the form of a cube. The short entrance staircase opens into a verandah. This was initially an open area that was covered in 1990-91 to form an enclosed structure. Swamiji would often sit at his designated place on the verandah and meet devotees and visitors. Swamiji's bedroom is located on the first floor, with windows facing the ashram gardens. Adjacent to his bedroom is his meditation room that faces east. On the western side is a closed balcony and storeroom (directly above the ground floor verandah)

Satsang Hall

Located near the southeast gate (now closed), the satsang hall is where Swamiji delivered discourses to scholars who would come to learn various Shaiva texts under his guidance. The walls of this hall are adorned with pictures of Swamiji, his Master and grand Master, his parents, Lord Shiva, and various deities and saints of Kashmir and India. These pictures have been preserved as they were during the life of the Master. This hall is set aside for meditation, regular evening prayers, and Sunday puja. To preserve the meditative atmosphere, visitors should observe silence and refrain from worldly talk inside the hall. The ground floor has two smaller rooms.

Library

Housed in the Lower floor room of the Satsang hall complex, this library has many old Kashmir Shaiva manuscripts. Visitors are encouraged to use this section for their scholarly pursuits.

Kitchen

Below the Satsang hall is a small kitchen, which was used for the daily cooking needs of the ashram. During Swamiji's time devotees also used it on Sundays for making tea and Prashad. This practice continues to this day.

Amriteshvara Bhairava Temple

The Temple's foundation stone was laid on 3rd September 1981 and was formally inaugurated by Swamiji on 11th May 1983. The Temple is a single-story wooden structure with a roof of slanted tin sheets, octagonal in shape, with a parikrama on which are inscribed five of Swamiji's favorite "Shiva Sutras". Inside is a Shiva lingam. Swamiji regularly worshiped inside the temple during the last eight years of his earthly life.

Devotee residential complex

Originally a residence, this complex was donated by a family to Ashram after Swamiji's mahasamadhi. It is now used for the stay of devotees visiting the Ashram. The office of the Ashram and the library is also located in the same complex. For stay, bookings can be done through https://kashmirshaivainstitute.org

Reaching Ishwar Ashram

1. From Srinagar Airport: Ashram is nearly 20 km from Srinagar airport, and the commute time is around 1 hour. The prepaid Taxi counter is just outside the exit area of the airport.
2. From L al Chowk (city center)/ Tourist Reception Centre (TRC), Srinagar: Ashram is nearly 12 km from L al Chowk area/TRC. L ocal buses plying towards Nishat/Shalimar/Harwan gardens can be boarded. L ocal Cabs are freely available from the city center. Ashram is a 5-10-minute pleasant walk from Nishat Garden. Getting down at Nishat Garden, keep walking in the same direction as the bus. Keep to the right of the road (do not go on Northern Foreshore Road, keep on the road towards Shalimar/Harwan). Nearly 400 m from Nishat Garden, a road on the right steeply climbs towards the mountainside. After a nearly 150 m climb on the road, the ashram gate should be seen on the left side.

Scan for Location

Parabhairava Dhama

In 1990, under Swamiji's detailed instructions, a new structure was built and the same was called Parabhairava-dharma (Throne of Bhagwan Bhairava). Having an octagonal shape, it surrounds the very tree under which Swamiji would meditate in the open on his birthdays. The venue of birthday meditation shifted to the Tea House (Pavilion) in later years.

Tea House (Pavilion)

Located on the western side of the Ashram is an open wooden teahouse, fondly called the "Pavilion". Swamiji would often sit and take his meals here during the summer months. After 1980, Swamiji also used this Pavilion for early morning meditation on his annual birthday celebration.

Garden

Since the establishment of the Ashram, the garden has always been meticulously maintained with Swamiji supervising the care of all the plants and trees. It often sports the rarest species of flowers, which complement the existent beauty of the Ashram. Various fruit trees adorn the periphery of garden.

Glass House

This small glass room was used to store plants and seedlings during the long winter months. Among other sundry uses, it also served as accommodation for the tailor who came to make clothes for Swamiji on his birthday each year. This structure, originally from one of Swamiji's fathers' houseboats, was shifted in 1933 to the first Ashram (located at Upper Ishber). Later, in 1962, it was relocated to the present Ashram.

Criss-Cross Room

This is a small room on the east side of the Ashram that houses all kinds of tools. Since it was constructed with a crisscross design, it was also nicknamed the "criss-cross room." Devotees commonly used these tools on Sundays for gardening and maintenance work in the Ashram.

Go-down (Store Room)

Adjacent to the Criss-Cross room, this two-story structure with wooden staircase was used for storing grains and other ashram items.

Havan Shala

Adjacent to the Ashram was a cowshed where a few cows were reared to provide milk for the inhabitants and visitors of the Ashram. In 1983, Swamiji renovated the cowshed and built a storeroom with a havan-shala on top. Shortly after, he sold his cows, and later, in 1991, he demolished this structure and built a larger havan-shala with a storeroom below. This havan-shala is used for Swamiji's annual Mahasamadhi havans. The same complex is also used for Mahasamadhi havans of Swamiji's master, Swami Mahtab Kakji.

Lower level

Big Kitchen or Vur

During the lifetime of Swamiji, this area housed the Big Kitchen and was used for major ashram events like Swamiji's birthday and Varsh. The structure was subsequently renovated, and the large kitchen/Vur, with the dining hall above, was constructed in 1999 to replace the old kitchen. It is presently used for cooking during major functions, like Swamiji's birthday and Maha Samadhi Yagya.

Lecture/ Seminar Hall

This is a large hall above the Big Kitchen. This hall is used for all lectures by scholars, group meetings, AV presentations, and other related purposes. It also serves as a dining area on big occasions of the Ashram calendar.

Note: Swamiji left special instructions for those intending to enter the Amriteshvara temple, the most important being: only pure vegetarians should be allowed to enter and that no leather items should be taken inside the temple premises.

Amriteshvara Bhairava Temple

The Temple's foundation stone was laid on 3rd September 1981 and was formally inaugurated by Swamiji on 11th May 1983. The Temple is a single-story wooden structure with a roof of slanted tin sheets, octagonal in shape, with a parikrama on which are inscribed five of Swamiji's favorite "Shiva Sutras". Inside is a Shiva lingam. Swamiji regularly worshiped inside the temple during the last eight years of his earthly life.

Devotee residential complex

Originally a residence, this complex was donated by a family to Ashram after Swamiji's mahasamadhi. It is now used for the stay of devotees visiting the Ashram. The office of the Ashram and the library is also located in the same complex. For stay, bookings can be done through https://kashmirshaivainstitute.org

Reaching Ishwar Ashram

1. From Srinagar Airport: Ashram is nearly 20 km from Srinagar airport, and the commute time is around 1 hour. The prepaid Taxi counter is just outside the exit area of the airport.
2. From L al Chowk (city center)/ Tourist Reception Centre (TRC), Srinagar: Ashram is nearly 12 km from L al Chowk area/TRC. L ocal buses plying towards Nishat/Shalimar/Harwan gardens can be boarded. L ocal Cabs are freely available from the city center. Ashram is a 5-10-minute pleasant walk from Nishat Garden. Getting down at Nishat Garden, keep walking in the same direction as the bus. Keep to the right of the road (do not go on Northern Foreshore Road, keep on the road towards Shalimar/Harwan). Nearly 400 m from Nishat Garden, a road on the right steeply climbs towards the mountainside. After a nearly 150 m climb on the road, the ashram gate should be seen on the left side.

Scan for Location

Parabhairava Dhama

In 1990, under Swamiji's detailed instructions, a new structure was built and the same was called Parabhairava-dharma (Throne of Bhagwan Bhairava). Having an octagonal shape, it surrounds the very tree under which Swamiji would meditate in the open on his birthdays. The venue of birthday meditation shifted to the Tea House (Pavilion) in later years.

Tea House (Pavilion)

Located on the western side of the Ashram is an open wooden teahouse, fondly called the "Pavilion". Swamiji would often sit and take his meals here during the summer months. After 1980, Swamiji also used this Pavilion for early morning meditation on his annual birthday celebration.

Garden

Since the establishment of the Ashram, the garden has always been meticulously maintained with Swamiji supervising the care of all the plants and trees. It often sports the rarest species of flowers, which complement the existent beauty of the Ashram. Various fruit trees adorn the periphery of garden.

Glass House

This small glass room was used to store plants and seedlings during the long winter months. Among other sundry uses, it also served as accommodation for the tailor who came to make clothes for Swamiji on his birthday each year. This structure, originally from one of Swamiji's fathers' houseboats, was shifted in 1933 to the first Ashram (located at Upper Ishber). Later, in 1962, it was relocated to the present Ashram.

Criss-Cross Room

This is a small room on the east side of the Ashram that houses all kinds of tools. Since it was constructed with a crisscross design, it was also nicknamed the "criss-cross room." Devotees commonly used these tools on Sundays for gardening and maintenance work in the Ashram.

Amriteshvara Bhairava Temple

The Temple's foundation stone was laid on 3rd September 1981 and was formally inaugurated by Swamiji on 11th May 1983. The Temple is a single-story wooden structure with a roof of slanted tin sheets, octagonal in shape, with a parikrama on which are inscribed five of Swamiji's favorite "Shiva Sutras". Inside is a Shiva lingam. Swamiji regularly worshiped inside the temple during the last eight years of his earthly life.

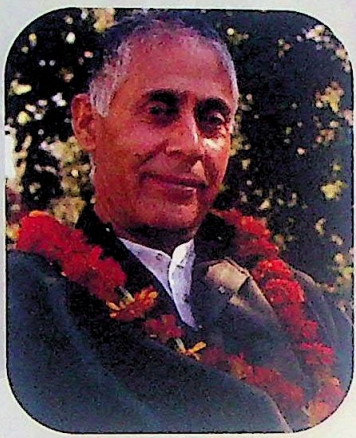
Devotee residential complex

Originally a residence, this complex was donated by a family to Ashram after Swamiji's mahasamadhi. It is now used for the stay of devotees visiting the Ashram. The office of the Ashram and the library is also located in the same complex. For stay, bookings can be done through https://kashmirshaivainstitute.org

Reaching Ishwar Ashram

1. From Srinagar Airport: Ashram is nearly 20 km from Srinagar airport, and the commute time is around 1 hour. The prepaid Taxi counter is just outside the exit area of the airport.
2. From L al Chowk (city center)/ Tourist Reception Centre (TRC), Srinagar: Ashram is nearly 12 km from L al Chowk area/TRC. L ocal buses plying towards Nishat/Shalimar/Harwan gardens can be boarded. L ocal Cabs are freely available from the city center. Ashram is a 5-10-minute pleasant walk from Nishat Garden. Getting down at Nishat Garden, keep walking in the same direction as the bus. Keep to the right of the road (do not go on Northern Foreshore Road, keep on the road towards Shalimar/Harwan). Nearly 400 m from Nishat Garden, a road on the right steeply climbs towards the mountainside. After a nearly 150 m climb on the road, the ashram gate should be seen on the left side.

Scan for Location



Ishwar Ashram

(Founded by Shiavacharaya Ishwarswaroop Swami Lakshmanjoo Maharaj)

Kashmir has always been known to be the abode of Saints & Scholars. Spiritual seekers across the world do not consider their mission complete unless they have visited Kashmir. And on this very land, in the early 20th century, was born Shaivacharya Swami Lakshmanjoo. Swamiji was an illuminated soul, who revived the Trika philosophy, also known as Kashmir Shaiva Darshan or Kashmir Shaivism.

He was also fondly known as "Laal Saab"(the dearest one) and "Ishwar Swaroop" (manifestation of God). HE founded the ashram at Ishber, Nishat Bagh, Srinagar, Kashmir which came to be known as "Ishwar Ashram".

The ashram is picturesquely set at the foothills of the Mahadeva mountain range, close to the shimmering waters of Dal Lake. This is a place where nature abounds in all its glory. Swamiji lived in this ashram from 1962 till he attained Mahasamadhi in 1991.